

# CORRECTING THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 2348

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Con. Res. 151, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 151) to make corrections in enrollment of the bill H.R. 2348 to authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to provide cost sharing for the endangered fish recovery implementation programs for the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 151) was agreed to, as follows:

## S. CON. RES. 151

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring).* That, in the enrollment of the bill (H.R. 2348) to authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to provide cost sharing for the endangered fish recovery implementation programs for the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins, the Clerk of the House shall make the following correction: Strike section 4 and insert:

### SEC. 4. EFFECT OF RECLAMATION LAW

Specifically with regard to the acreage limitation provisions of Federal reclamation law, any action taken pursuant to or in furtherance of this title will not:

(1) be considered in determining whether a district as defined in section 202(2) of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (43 U.S.C. 390bb) has discharged its obligation to repay the construction cost of project facilities used to make irrigation water available for delivery to land in the district;

(2) serve as the basis for reinstating acreage limitation provisions in a district that has completed payment of its construction obligation; or

(3) serve as the basis for increasing the construction repayment obligation of the district and thereby extending the period during which the acreage limitation provisions will apply.

# AUTHORIZING USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR THE MILLION FAMILY MARCH

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 423, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 423) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Million Family March.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 423) was agreed to.

## RAILS TO RESOURCES ACT OF 2000

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 718, S. 2253.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2253) to authorize the establishment of a joint United States-Canada commission to study the feasibility of connecting the rail system to Alaska to the North American continental rail system, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations with an amendment, as follows:

(Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic.)

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Rails to Resources Act of 2000".*

### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

*Congress finds that—*

(1) rail transportation is an essential component of the North American intermodal transportation system;

(2) the development of economically strong and socially stable communities in the western United States and Canada was encouraged significantly by government policies promoting the development of integrated transcontinental, interstate and interprovincial rail systems in the states, territories and provinces of the two countries;

(3) United States and Canadian federal support for the completion of new elements of the transcontinental, interstate and interprovincial rail systems was halted before rail connections were established to the state of Alaska and the Yukon Territory;

(4) both public and private lands in Alaska, the Yukon Territory and northern British Columbia, including lands held by aboriginal peoples, contain extensive deposits of oil, gas, coal and other minerals as well as valuable forest products which presently are inaccessible, but which could provide significant economic benefit to local communities and to both nations if an economically efficient transportation system was available;

(5) rail transportation in otherwise isolated areas facilitates controlled access and reduced overall impact to environmentally sensitive areas;

(6) the extension of the continental rail system through northern British Columbia and the Yukon Territory to the current terminus of the Alaska Railroad would significantly benefit the U.S. and Canadian visitor industries by facilitating the comfortable movement of passengers over long distances while minimizing effects on the surrounding areas; and

(7) ongoing research and development efforts in the rail industry continue to increase the efficiency of rail transportation, ensure safety, and decrease the impact of rail service on the environment.

### SEC. 3. AGREEMENT FOR A UNITED STATES-CANADA BILATERAL COMMISSION.

*The President is authorized and urged to enter into an agreement with the Government of*

*Canada to establish a joint commission to study the feasibility and advisability of linking the rail system in Alaska to the nearest appropriate point on the North American continental rail system.*

### SEC. 4. COMPOSITION OF COMMISSION.

(a) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) TOTAL MEMBERSHIP.—The Agreement should provide for the Commission to be composed of 20 members, of which 10 members are appointed by the President and 10 members are appointed by the Government of Canada.

(2) GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS.—The Agreement should provide for the membership of the Commission, to the maximum extent practicable, to be representative of—

(A) the interests of the local communities (including the governments of the communities), aboriginal peoples, and businesses that would be affected by the connection of the rail system in Alaska to the North American continental rail system; and

(B) a broad range of expertise in areas of knowledge that are relevant to the significant issues to be considered by the Commission, including economics, engineering, management of resources (such as minerals and timber), social sciences, fish and game management, environmental sciences, and transportation.

(b) UNITED STATES MEMBERSHIP.—If the United States and Canada enter into an agreement providing for the establishment of the Commission, the President shall appoint the United States members of the Commission as follows:

(1) Two members from among persons who are qualified to represent the interests of communities and local governments of Alaska.

(2) One member representing the State of Alaska, to be nominated by the Governor of Alaska.

(3) One member from among persons who are qualified to represent the interests of Native Alaskans residing in the area of Alaska that would be affected by the extension of rail service.

(4) Three members from among persons involved in commercial activities in Alaska who are qualified to represent commercial interests in Alaska, of which one shall be a representative of the Alaska Railroad Corporation.

(5) Three members with relevant expertise, at least one of whom shall be an engineer with expertise in subarctic transportation.

(c) CANADIAN MEMBERSHIP.—The Agreement should provide for the Canadian membership of the Commission to be representative of broad categories of interests of Canada as the Government of Canada determines appropriate, consistent with subsection (a)(2).

### SEC. 5. GOVERNANCE AND STAFFING OF COMMISSION.

(a) CHAIRMAN.—The Agreement should provide for the Chairman of the Commission to be elected from among the members of the Commission by a majority vote of the members.

(b) COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES OF UNITED STATES MEMBERS.—

(1) COMPENSATION.—Each member of the Commission appointed by the President who is not an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall be compensated at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which such member is engaged in the performance of the duties of the Commission. Each such member who is an officer or employee of the United States shall serve without compensation in addition to that received for services as an officer or employee of the United States.

(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the Commission appointed by the President shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away